



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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November 23, 2011

HPT-WA/730.33

Mr. Dean Lookingbill
Transportation Director
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
1300 Franklin Street, Floor 4
Vancouver, Washington 98660

**Air Quality Conformity Determination
Southwest Washington Regional
Transportation Council (SWRTC)
2012-2015 Transportation Improvement
Program (TIP)**

Dear Mr. Lookingbill:

The Vancouver urbanized area, is currently designated as an attainment/maintenance area for carbon monoxide (CO) and has been re-designated from "maintenance" to "attainment" for ozone. According to the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1990, transportation plans, programs, and projects cannot create new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations, increase the frequency or severity of existing NAAQS violations, or delay attainment of the NAAQS. As such, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA) are required to make a transportation conformity determination for both the MPO Transportation Plan and TIP in non-attainment or maintenance areas that receive funding or require approval actions by FHWA/FTA. Transportation conformity ensures areas that Federal funding and approval are given to transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals, and do not worsen air quality or interfere with the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

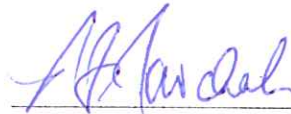
On October 4, 2011, SWRTC approved and formally made a conformity determination on the 2012-2015 TIP. The M/RTP and the TIP present the current air quality status of the region, latest planning assumptions used, latest emissions model used, consultation process used for conducting conformity analysis and demonstration of a fiscally constrained TIP.

Based on our review of SWRTC's conformity determination, as concurred in by Washington

State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE), U.S. Environment Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration in a meeting held November 8, 2011 we find that the subject 2012-2015 TIP conforms with the State Implementation Plan to reduce the severity and number of NAAQS violations, insuring expeditious attainment of standards.



Daniel M. Mathis, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosures

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Claudia Vaupel, EPA
Mike Boyer, WSDOE